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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,894	12/12/2000	Elizabeth F. Churchill	107724	5464
25944	7590	02/09/2005		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER EL CHANTI, HUSSEIN A	
			ART UNIT 2157	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/733,894	Applicant(s) CHURCHILL ET AL.	
	Examiner Hussein A El-chanti	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 7 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment received on Sep. 13, 2004. Claims 1, 4 and 6 were amended. Claims 9-20 were newly added. Claims 1-20 are pending examination.
2. Applicant's election with traverse of Invention I in the reply filed on Sep. 13, 2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that Inventions I and II do not require additional search by examiner. This is not found persuasive because inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as admitting and removing messages in chat rooms or conference messaging systems. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
3. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Porter, U.S. Patent No. 6,434,599.

Porter teaches the invention explicitly as claimed including a method and system of dynamic formation of chat sessions where each user is associated with an information site (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Porter teaches a system that supports a document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices comprising:

an invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to discuss a document (see col. 6 lines 23-40, visitor manger tracks current users and information associated with each user);

a view storage memory that stores view information for each active discussion (see col. 7 lines 28-60, manager tracks each information page, users joining, leaving etc...);

a controller that controls the invitation storage memory and the view storage memory to specify invitation information for at least one user specifying view information for an accepted invitation stored in the view storage memory wherein the view information includes information which allows users of each of the heterogeneous display devices to collaborate within a document in which the document is centered (see col. 8 lines 24-50, users sends an invitation for users to combine chat sessions through the chat session manager).

As to claim 2, Porter teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user contact storage memory that stores user contact information, and wherein the invitation information stored in the invitation storage memory for at least one invitation includes information from the user contact storage memory (see col. 7 lines 1-10).

As to claim 3, Porter teaches the system of claim 2, wherein each user contact entry of the user contact storage memory includes at least one of a user identifier and a device identifier (see fig. 8A, shows each user and associated address).

As to claim 4, Porter teaches a method for supporting document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices, comprising:

entering invitation information to a discussion into an invitation store (see col. 6 lines 23-40);

identifying invitees to the discussion based on the invitation information in the invitation store (see col. 7 lines 28-61);

determining invitation acceptance and for accepted invitation (see col. 8 lines 24-50),

entering invitee specific information and invitation information into a view store (see col. 8 lines 24-50);

updating invitee view information based on in the current focus of attention; viewing information for the invitee based on context information of the inviter (see col. 8 lines 24-50).

As to claim 5, Porter teaches the method of claim 4, further comprising displaying the document based on stored user information (see col. 8 lines 24-50).

As to claim 6, Porter teaches the of claim 5, further comprising displaying the document using at least one of a device type, a device identifier and a display capability from a user contact information store (see fig. 8A).

As to claim 12, the system of claim 1, wherein the view information includes at least one of an invitee identifier, a device type: for each invitee identifier and a context identifier (see fig. 8A).

As to claim 13, the system of claim 12, wherein the device type is obtained from a user contact storage memory which stores user contact information (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 14, the system of claim 13, wherein the context identifier includes at least one of information which identifies a portion of the document which an invitee is currently focusing on and information which identifies a portion of the document which an inviter is currently focusing on (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 15, the system of claim 13, wherein the context identifier includes at least one of a name of the document and a location of the document (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 16, the system of claim 1, wherein the stored invitation information includes at least one of an invitee identifier portion which identifies a user invited to the document-centered discussion, an inviter identifier portion which identifies a user which initiated an invitation, a time and date stamp portion which identifies a time and a date when the invitation was issued and a status indicator portion which indicates a status of the invitation (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 17, the system of claim 16, wherein the status of the invitation is one of broadcast and awaiting reply, not yet broadcast, refused, and accepted.

As to claim 18, the system of claim 12, wherein the context identifier specifies at least one of a document name, a document location and a specific invitee's current focus of attention within the document on which the document-centered discussion is based (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 19, the system of claim 12, wherein the invitee identifier identifies an invitee device used to accept the invitation (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

As to claim 20, the system of claim 19, wherein the view information includes a device type previously associated with the invitee device used to accept the invitation (see col. 5 lines 45-col. 6 lines 10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter in view of Guck, U.S. Patent No. 5,848,415.

As to claim 9, Porter teaches a system that supports a document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices comprising a controller that controls the invitation storage memory and the view storage memory to specify invitation information for at least one user specifying view information for an accepted invitation stored in the view storage memory wherein the view information includes information

which allows users of each of the heterogeneous display devices to collaborate within a document in which the document is centered (see the rejection of claim 1).

Porter does not explicitly teach the converting a format of the document from a native application format to a standard format. However Guck teaches a content server using an object database supports a network of multiple User clients. The object database will be searched to find the proper converter object to transform the contents of the source document into the required format for the calling requester's facilities or for transmittal to a digital appliance in a protocol appropriate to the receiving requester or digital appliance (see abstract).

It would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Porter by using the format converter to convert sent and received data to and from clients as taught by Guck because doing so would provide systems and methodology which enable clients using one type of personal computer and its specialized protocol requirements to communicate with other clients having different personal computers with different formats and protocol requirements (see Guck, col. 1).

As to claim 10, Guck teaches the system further comprising a device translation circuit, the device translation circuit converting the document from a standard format to at least one device-specific format (see abstract).

As to claim 11, Porter teaches the system further comprising a user contact storage memory which stores user contact information, wherein the user contact

information includes at least one of a user identifier and a device identifier and the device-specific format is based on the device identifier for an invitee (see fig. 8A).

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hussein A El-chanti whose telephone number is (571)272-3999. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hussein El-chanti

Feb. 5, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER